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WASHINGTON TIMES  
9 April 1986

# Gratified by Reagan policy, Israel lobby to soften stance

By George Archibald  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Leaders of a pro-Israel lobby say that a less confrontational policy toward the Reagan administration is in order because of the president's "revolutionary" policy of building support for the Jewish state throughout the U.S. bureaucracy.

"The times have changed, and we must change with them," said Thomas A. Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Because of the present level of U.S. strategic cooperation with Israel, Jewish political organizations must be more selective in opposing U.S. arms sales to the Arab states, he said at the group's 27th annual policy conference, which ended here yesterday.

"We are in the midst of a revolution that is raising U.S.-Israel relations to new heights," Mr. Dine said.

The administration "is sinking down roots that will secure the tree of U.S.-Israel relations from future storms" through joint military operations, sharing advanced American technologies, stockpiling U.S. weaponry in Israel and public diplomatic support for controversial Israeli actions, he said.

"In the process, a whole new constituency of support for Israel is being built in precisely the area where we are weakest — among government officials in the State, Defense and Treasury departments; in the CIA; in science, trade, agriculture and other agencies."

"These are the people responsible for proposing policy and implementing it. In a crisis, these anonymous officials will play a vital role."

In the past, U.S. officials regarded Israel as "a liability, a hindrance to America's relation-

ship with the Arab world," requiring the Jewish lobby to seek congressional action to prevent U.S. support for Israel's enemies, Mr. Dine said.

"Congress is the bedrock of the U.S.-Israel relationship," he said. However, in light of the Reagan administration's "unprecedented" support for Israel as "a mature and capable partner," pro-Israel groups should refrain from impulsive confrontation with the executive branch on issues involving the Arab states, he said.

The Jewish lobby will continue to draw the line against the sale of highly sophisticated F-15 jets to Jordan and AWACs aircraft to Saudi Arabia, he said.

"In some cases, once in a while, administrations are just plain wrong," he said. "Or, to be a little more charitable about it, in some cases they are trying to solve a different problem with another country, but their actions, while not intended to harm Israel, have the effect of eroding Israel's narrow margin of security."

But Mr. Dine said there will be no organized effort by AIPAC to block arms sales to Arab states that pose only a minimal threat to Israel.

Specifically, the group will not fight the proposed sale of Stinger missiles to the Saudis, "because in our best judgment the cost of confrontation with the administration would have been greater than the marginal benefit of stopping the arms sale," he said.

"Our very strong instinct was to fight it, especially because of Saudi Arabia's abominable record," he said. However, a diverse group of defense experts agreed "that this particular package would have questionable impact on the security of Israel."